

STATE OF TEXAS
 COUNTY OF BRAZORIA
 CITY OF WEST COLUMBIA

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
 OF A SPECIAL MEETING
 MONDAY, AUGUST 26th, 2019

The City Council of the City of West Columbia, Texas, convenes this the 26th day of August, 2019, at 7:00 p.m. in a special meeting in the Council Chambers, 512 E. Brazos, West Columbia, Texas.

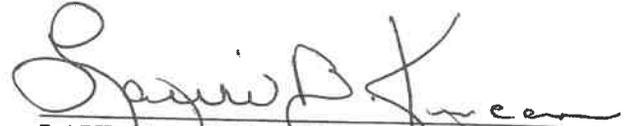
1. CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. Present were Kincannon, Thomas, Tindol, Maynor, Walker and Biedenfeld.
2. CONSIDER EDC BUSINESS INCENTIVE GRANT FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS: Walker recused himself from discussion and vote after submitting a Conflict of Interest Affidavit regarding the application of Granny's Cupcake Station because he owned the building being rented to Melinda Rochen. Motion was made by Biedenfeld and seconded by Maynor to approve Granny's Cupcake Station application for mural incentive. All voted Aye. Motion was made by Walker that was seconded by Biedenfeld to approve Wintle & Co. application for property improvement and mural incentive. All voted Aye.
3. CONSIDER RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SUBMISSION OF LIBRARY HANCHER GRANT: West Columbia branch librarian, Bobby Edge reported the library was proposing to replace furniture and install a new book drop through a Hancher grant application in the amount of \$23,200 with the support of the city. Sutherland stated that flooring and painting could be completed while all furniture was removed. Other improvements would be made through the county's application for the Tocker grant in the amount of 50,000. Motion was made by Biedenfeld that was seconded by Tindol to adopt Resolution No. 520 authorizing the submission of the Hancher grant application. Maynor suggested to notify the community for volunteer help with demo work, etc. All voted Aye.
4. CONSIDER 2020 PROJECT GRADUATION REQUEST FOR HOMECOMING PARADE: It was reported that the 2020 Project Graduation committee are requesting to hold a Homecoming Parade on September 21st to boost school pride while kicking off Spirit Week. The original route requested would be from Prosperity Bank/city hall down Hwy 35 to S. 17th and ending at the field on Roughneck Dr. Insurance requirements of hosting entity were discussed as well as the cost of security and short notice that would result in additional expenses due to scheduling of all officers. Sutherland reported that the ProGrad representative stated they could re-route the parade to that used during Red Ribbon Week which would only be on the residential streets around the field area. It was discussed that the number of CBISD officers should be able to handle traffic control for this route and Public Works would allow use of barricades. Walker made a motion to approve the parade permit for the route using residential streets with CBISD providing officers and liability insurance, if needed. Tindol seconded the motion and all voted Aye.
5. PUBLIC HEARING – PROPOSED TAX RATE OF \$0.8200/\$100, A 3.93% TAX INCREASE ABOVE THE EFFECTIVE TAX RATE: Kincannon closed the open meeting and opened the public hearing at 7:08 p.m. Sutherland reported that the proposed rate of \$.820000 would raise \$53,278 more tax revenue than last year to help fund maintenance and operations. After requesting a list of the percentages of increases over the past ten years, Walker stated he would like to see a \$.01 reduction to show citizens that council is aware of the steady increase. Sutherland stated that every cent counts and reported on various projects that were already having to be cut based on the proposed \$.8200 rate calculation, such as the TCEQ recommended rehab of ground storage and raised tanks of both Well Nos. 2 and 3 and Clarifier 2 replacement at the WWTP. She also reported that wages are not adequate to retain employees. Both Public Works and the Police Department are losing employees to other cities/agencies. Biedenfeld stated he didn't want to get into a debt competition to hire

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employees and would like to see more measures of tax revenue increases. Walker suggested a systematic reduction close to the CPI number and that a \$.01 decrease would result in a \$17,000 loss of revenue. Sutherland stated that department heads were still trying to close a \$30,000 deficit in the General Fund and revenues had dropped approximately \$100,000 overall. Staff would continue to work on presenting a balanced budget. The second public hearing will be Tuesday, September 3rd at 7 p.m. Kincannon closed the public hearing and reconvened in open session at 8:11 p.m.

6. BUDGET WORKSHOP: Workshop was included in the public hearing.
7. ADJOURN: Meeting was adjourned at 8:11 p.m.


LAURIE B. KINCANNON, Mayor

ATTEST:


KELLI R. KUBAN, City Secretary